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# The DX Bulletin

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Issue 67 December 8, 1980

HOT NEWS? CALL THE DX BULLETIN: 203-871-6251; LEAVE A MESSAGE!

PROPAGATION FORECAST: Dec. 7, High Normal; Dec. 8, High/Low Normal; Dec. 9, High Normal; Dec. 10, High/Above Normal; Dec. 11, High Normal; Dec. 12, 13, Low Normal; Dec. 14, High Normal; Dec. 15, High/Low Normal; Dec. 16, 17, 18, Low Normal; Dec. 19, 20, High Normal. TNX N4XX.

## ABU AIL

The appearance of J2ØAA/A is awaited as this is written, with K6LPL, J28AZ and F6ATQ expected to do the honors through perhaps as late as Dec. 8. Nothing had been heard of Dr. Gardner operating as J28LP through the 4th.

Many are in doubt as to just what Abu Ail is...Jabal at Tair is a small group of islands at the lower mouth of the Red Sea, of which Abu Ail is the primary hazard to navigation. Thus, the lighthouse. The islands are under the "protection" of the United Nations. Abu Ail's lighthouse had been administered and maintained by the government of Ethiopia until a few years ago, when Djibouti took over the chore.

The first operation from Abu Ail was ET3ZU/A in 1971; the most recent in 1979 (Spring) signing OE6XG/A.

As Ethiopia, Somalia, North Yemen, South Yemen, Djibouti, and Saudi Arabia are all within shouting distance of the lighthouse, many countries have had an interest in the spot over the years. Future operations will be in great jeopardy, as they are for the Kamarans now, due to the great strategic importance of the entire area.

## GUINEA

Ian Doncaster, VK4NIC/3X, continues active with an FT-707 and dipoles for

10 and 15 Meters. He will be back in Australia sometime this month for a couple of weeks, hoping to return to Guinea with an external vfo for his Yaesu, and will stay in Guinea until April.

Ian's normal operating schedule is 28.735 1600-1900, and 21300 at 2200. He will make one-way cw contacts, but not during list operations. His work has been primarily lists on 10 Meters and on his own on 15.

QSL manager W4FRU will not be printing any cards until documentation is accepted in Newington, Connecticut, so it would be advisable to not send anything to 'FRU until the announcement is made.

9G1RT has been active recently and is reportedly interested in making a short trip to Guinea to operate Doncaster's station, sometime around this week or next, presumably before Ian leaves for Australia. It is not known if 9G1RT would be operating CW or what his other preferences might be.

## WILLIS

VK9ZG closed operations from Willis Is. Dec. 3 with 20,000 contacts on 80-10 Meters, and over 2,000 on 56 MHz. 6-Meter contacts included such goodies as KH6, KG6, KX6, JA, and Australia. Graeme also worked into Papua and VK4 on 2 Meters.

Dave Shaw will replace VK9ZG on Willis, as the automated station is still not completely reliable and requires human assistance. Dave will be a brand-new (cont'd)

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ham, and his first contact from Willis will be his first ever amateur radio contact (take two Valiums and call me when the band closes-Ed). The pressure on Dave may be somewhat alleviated by the recent VK9ZG QSO output....

Gear left behind on Willis includes a Collins KWM2, TH3 Jr. beam, wire aeri-als and an IC551 and five element yagi for 6 Meters, loaned by JA1BK through VK30T.

VK30T says the original 5,000 VK9ZG cards donated by Kenwood have been used up, and more are being printed, along with cards for VK9ZD, courtesy of VK2OI. VK30T has been turning around VK9ZG QSL requests in only a couple of weeks, and he will act as manager for VK9ZD.

## CQ WW CW

A relatively minor solar storm and disturbance played itself out on Nov. 28 and all hf bands performed exceptionally well for the CQ CW Contest weekend. Conditions on 10 and 15 Meters were not quite up to snuff, 20 Meters exhibited considerable fading and lots of watery signals, but the low bands more than made up the difference.

Openings to Asia, including Japan, occurred for the U.S. East Coast, with one Connecticut multi-transmitter station working several dozen JA con-testers on 80 Saturday morning. In fact, many multipliers were workable on 80 and 40 which never did show up on the higher bands.

Contest expeditions were few and far between. the three VP2Ks mentioned in Issue 65 were on 10, 15, and 20; also from Central and South America were 9Y4VT, W4UY/PJ7, PJ2CC (K4BAI), 6Y5YL, 8P6J, XE2MX.

From other areas could be found ZL1AMO/C finishing up his stint on Chatham, Lloyd and Iris Colvin using W6KG/4X, VE1AI/1 who persevered and got to Sable Island a couple of days before the contest, ZF2DW (N4BP), N4MO/C6A, and 5Z4MM (K1MM).

The 5Z4MM African surprise was by K1MM, K1MEM, and others. Their first shot was Uganda, their second Malagasy, both turned down. They ended up at the home of the late 5Z4ERR and used the setup there for an all-band effort.

Your editor's 10 Meter ICBM yagi was good for 900 contacts, 81 countries and 26 zones on 28 MHz, in about 20 hours operation. The entire first night of the contest was missed, possibly costing us a record of some kind. The toughest contact from Connecticut turned out to be VO2CW, Zone 2, on back-scatter.

## YASME

W6KG/4X will continue active by Lloyd and Iris Colvin but may be of short duration; they said they would be there for the CQ Contest but no mention of any following con-test activity from Israel.

Last operation by the pair, W6QL/SV5 Rhodes, netted 6500 contacts, 133 countries, in 16 days. They again split their operating time 'twixt cw and ssb. Since the Rhodes tourist season had already ended, the Colvins had an entire hotel to themselves, it being officially closed for the season. They could look out the window and see the country of Turkey as they rapturously contemplated the complete lack of TVI and BCI problems.

One of the Colvin's favorite pasttimes has been seeing how fast they can work all six continents. Iris worked, purely by accident, 4Z4, EA9, SP, W2, VK, and YV in just three minutes, an all time best for either her or Lloyd. This was on 20 Meters ssb.

## VK9 COCOS

Things are looking up: VK5QX states an Australian novice operator may be stationed on Cocos sometime around Christmas for up to two years. His call sign is thought to be VK9NYG.

Alex, VK9CCT, who is on from Cocos every couple of months, does not expect to make another visit until sometime in January. He will benefit greatly if VK9NYG is there, as a station will be set up and (cont'd)



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ready for Alex to use. Thus far in his operations Alex has had to work setting up and tearing down a station into his already-crowded Cocos work schedule. He has been known to forego sleep in order to work the bands from VK9.

Another possibility is that VK3CGR will make some stops on Cocos during 1981. Paul has operated from Cocos before, some years past, and he likes CW.

Manager for all these Cocos operations (North Americans only) is Bob Polhamus, WA9WWT, a Bearcat over in Muncie Indiana.

It was All Stop yesterday when the latest issue of CB Magazine arrived. After three years of work, FCC finally busted a CBer in New Orleans who was running 5000 watts. Before it was all over, a U.S. attorney, a U.S. Congresswoman, an FCC engineer, and local TV station WWL-TV were involved, along with the CBer's Neighborhood Improvement Association.

Operator Samuel L. Ford, Sr., claimed his TVI problems were due to his use of a six-element Laser Beam (little brother to the ICBM) but FCC detectives became suspicious when they approached the site and they had to take special measures to keep their receivers from overloading.

Two separate stations were discovered in Ford's home; a legal one in the living room and another one consisting of three amplifiers connected in series, driven by a 4-watt CB transmitter and a reverb echo box. Mr. Ford's RG8 coax had been melting on him and he awaited an order for some hardline. When FCC personnel attempted to measure input later at the federal building, they got to 5,000 watts and the 40-amp circuit breakers in the building tripped out.

Ford awaits trial. It is presumed he is off the air.

Postal Notes: Don't forget that U.S. air mail rates go to 40 cents a half-ounce January 1, 1981. The U.S.P.S. is still toying with the idea of expanding zip codes to nine digits. They are getting new equipment which will "read" zip codes, and will be capable of reading either the present five-digit or the proposed nine-digit codes.

Many IRCs become useless on January 1; the old style which had spaces to be rubber-stamped along the right edge and which are always imprinted with the name of the selling country may be exchanged locally at the post office, at a loss. After Jan. 1 the old style will not be redeemable for postage stamps in the U.S.

Latest bulletin of the Western Washington DX Club lists over 500 members!

West Germans have a new prefix: DH, heard on 10 Meters. Jordanians have been substituting the number "7" for whatever number is normally in their callsign.

Our QSL Listing in Issue 65 has had only one "bounce" so far...3A1CX does say on the air that WB8OJF is his manager, but 'OJF says not so.

Advertising rates for QST magazine increase 20 percent with the April issue. Did you note the amazing similarity between the front covers of the December issues of QST and CQ?

And a reminder that this year you may have a choice of modes during the ARRL 10 Meter Contest...CW only, phone only, or mixed.

K3MWV and others on the East Coast have now worked all continents on 6 Meters, thanks in part to EL2FY, who shows on 50.030 about 1400Z. Guam was worked from cT last week on 50 MHz.

There are still rumors that DL7FT is working on operating permission from Albania; also SV1JG trying for the same spot next summer. Some Western businessmen and tour groups are being allowed into Albania now that China's influence has dwindled there, but visitors still describe the country as being extremely isolated philosophically from both East and West, and very paranoid of invasion.

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BANDPASS: Call/Freq./UTC (Plus West, Central, East coast report)/Date

## Low Bands

CN8AD/7019/07W/22  
CT2AK/7005/04W/23  
KP4KK/  
DU2/3790/15W/28  
W7LPF/  
DU2/7010/13W/20  
EA8RL/3509/06W/22

FG7AM/1810/03W/23  
GD4BEG/3503/05C/23  
IS00MH/3505/01E/23  
J73A/1810/03W/23  
J73A/7010/01W/23  
OX3LF/7012/01E/27  
TA2TAT/7004/03E/28  
T3AF/3509/12E/20

T3AF/7003/11E/24  
UC2SLO/7009/03C/28  
UQ2GCF/7010/05W/23  
UK2RDX/7005/05W/23  
RG6A/7006/03E/28  
UH8EAA/7003/23E/22  
VS6CZ/3507/14W/27  
VS6DO/3790/14W/28

VS6DO/7004/12E/24  
ZS5LB/3510/03W/23  
5N0DOG/7012/05W/22  
9M2KG/7004/14W/23

## Africa

EA9JL/14046/20E/23  
C5ACJ/28518/21C/25  
EA9IE/28580/17E/27  
FR7BX/14022/14W/22  
FR0FLO/28525/13C/27  
J28/A/14207/02E/28

J20CN/28509/13E/28  
SU1AL/14202/02E/28  
TJ1AY/14241/21E/24  
TN8AJ/21329/19C/28  
XT2AU/14222/05E/22  
ZD7SD/28582/19W/25  
3B8DA/14030/03C/25

3B8DB/21289/20W/25  
5N8AFE/28507/21C/25  
5V7HL/21355/22C/23  
5Z4GM/14202/15W/24  
5Z4OT/14246/05C/29  
5Z4KX/14028/05C/26  
60QDX/14275/04E/22

6W8HL/21278/23E/27  
7P8BL/28769/13C/24  
9G1AP/14228/01E/23  
9G1RT/28523/17C/23  
9J2TJ/21266/21E/23  
9J2KL/28005/18C/27

## Asia

AP2MQ/14212/13E/24  
AP2ZR/14213/02W/28

N7ET/  
DU6/28002/23E/23  
DU9RG/28544/23W/25  
HM2IJ/21019/02C/26

HS1AMS/28521/00W/26  
TA1MD/21290/17C/22  
UI8LC/14201/04C/24  
VS6DD/28588/23W/25

YB0BEG/14250/11E/24  
YK1AO/14213/15C/21  
5B4JK/28635/15C/23  
9N1MM/14225/12C/23

## Others

C21BS/21345/01E/27  
C21BS/28591/00C/25  
FO8HA/21029/00E/23  
H44SH/28573/22C/22  
KS6FL/28531/20E/27

KH3AB/14026/05W/20  
WA4BVB/  
KH2/28585/21C/22  
N4ADJ/  
KH2/28029/22E/24

DF8YR/  
LX/28005/15E/25  
PZ1AR/28554/22E/24  
T3LAB/14205/03E/26  
SV0AW/9/28513/17C/28  
VP8PP/21345/01E/26

ZB2EO/14005/00W/25  
4D1SEA/14214/15W/26 (DU)  
4U1UN/28026/16E/26  
9H4G/14224/15W/27

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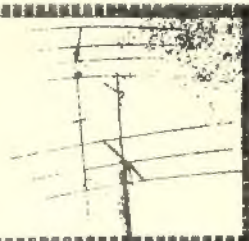
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"D-LAY-5"



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1A0KM was/is a special station set up to aid communications in the aftermath of southern Italy's recent earthquake. Conducted by the "Southern Military Order of Malta," the station is located in a "fully independent political entity and extra territorial area of Rome." Contacts of a casual nature were being made when emergency communications needs slackened off. The operators are investigating the possibility of DXCC country status for SMOM. QSLs for 1A0KM go to I0MGM.

Correction from Issue 66: WIHCS will be in the 10-Meter contest signing FG0FWK/FS, during his 8-day stay on Sint Martin. At other times he will sign WIHCS/PJ7.

If you handled any "third party" traffic in conjunction with the earthquake in Italy, you will not be arrested; FCC's Treaty Branch OKayed such for the duration of the emergency.

Follows a report on September's Juan de Nova operations:

Six operators arrived on Mayotte from W. Germany Sept. 11, and departed for Juan de Nova immediately on the sixty-foot "Noa-Noa." Some contacts were made from the boat as FH0DZ/MM, although heavy seas were making everyone but the crew seasick.

Arrival at Juan de Nova was Sept. 13; with landing an impossibility, all gear had to be taken ashore on a rubber dinghy. Less than two days later, 5,000 contacts were already in the log, when the first disaster struck...

The island's weather station ordered all ham stations shut down, no explanation given. The operators informed their contacts back home in Germany, who contacted the authorities in Paris, inquiring why the powers that be on Reunion had stopped the operations. More calls to the French embassy in Bonn and the German embassy in Paris followed.

The operators observed that only two reasons could be given for such a ceasing of operations:

- 1) Danger to the French state
- 2) Criminal acts by expedition members...

It was observed further that the hams on the island neither wanted to steal the island nor could they transmit any secrets from an island which is uninhabited.

Despite the best efforts of the French PTT and the various embassies, local rule prevailed. It seemed that someone on Reunion just wanted everyone off the island of Juan de Nova. So, on September 18, the group left and returned to Mayotte. From there...

On to Glorioso (where they had been in April). FR0DZ/G came on Sept. 21, where an additional 10,000 contacts were made. Add these to 3500 from Mayotte while waiting for the boat. All this worked out to each contact made costing the participants about two dollars U.S. each.

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Coming next week: a report on last June's 6T1YP and ST2FF/ST0 operations, complete with photos.

## PROPAGATION (Thanks KH6BZF)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Flux</u>	<u>Alpha</u>	<u>K</u>
11/16	195	12	2
11/17	189	11	3
11/18	179	12	3
11/19	177	13	3
11/20	166	15	3
11/21	166	13	2
11/22	176	7	1

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## CALENDAR

Abu Ail	J20AA/A	Might be one day left, Dec. 8; this issue
Tahiti	FO0ALN	By K4II, Dec. 6-14
Guinea		Possible by 9G1RT, second week of Dec.; this issue
St. Martin	PJ7 and FS7	By W1HCS, Dec. 10-18; Issue 66 and this issue
Deadline	CQ Phone	Mail logs before Dec. 15
Willis	VK9ZD	VK9ZG gone but VK9ZD on soon; this issue
Pacific		DL1VU operation continues; Issue 66 and 64
Yemen	4W1	By N2KK following J20CN; Dec. 8-15; Issue 62
Peter and Paul		PY0SA and PY0RA rumored for Dec. 12-14; Issues 61 and 63
Sudan	ST2	By N2KK, Dec. 15-22; Issue 62
S. Sudan		By N2KK, Dec. 22-Jan. 15; Issue 62
Heard		Still rumored by P29JS/VK9NS; Issue 64
S. Sandwich	VP8SSI	Jan. 1-4; Issue 63
Lebanon	OD5KK	By N2KK, Jan. 15-Feb. 4; Issue 62
Iraq	Y11JY	Late Jan. or early Feb.; Issue 66
Cyprus	5B4KK	By N2KK, Feb. 4-11; Issue 62
Kingman/ Palmyra		By VK2BJL and others; April. Issue 63

## THANKS TO...

DK9KD, I0MGM, W1HCS, K1LHN, W1NG, K3MWV, W2LZX, K7AGJ, K8CSG, WB2SBO, W7YF, W4VQ, KA0E, W1HGS, DF9ZO, K1TO, AK3F, W3AZD, WA9WWT, W3ODJ, YASME, VK3OT, K1KD, WA4YCI, W0YK, W4ZD, K4JST, W1DQH, W9QWM, W5CPI, WD0GML, N5AKV, KF0H, N6RA, AB2N, WB3CQA, WB8ZRL, KK5A, AA5C, WA2HZR, K0DEQ, KA3R, N8BKB, W8LU, AD8J, W1MLG, W0WW, K8IP, W4JTL, K6IR, WA2PHA, WN3KER, Andy Parker